(b) the proposed measures to deal with the long queues and rush at the airport entrance and immigration counters that cause troubles to domestic as well as international passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Following steps have been taken to facilitate passengers and avoid rush and long queues during the ongoing upgradation and modernization works at the terminals of IGI airport:

(i) Space for passenger movement and smooth operation has been increased by relocating Airline Offices outside the International Terminal building.

(ii) Modernisation activities have been rescheduled to implement them in a phased manner to minimise inconvenience to passengers.

(iii) New flight information display boards have been installed to facilitate passengers.

(iv) An agency has been deployed at the international terminal to guide the passengers to respective check-in counters.

(v) Security check gates have been increased from 8 to 14. Number of immigration counters on the departure side is being increased from 28 to 44 and further to 52. On arrival side, the immigration counters are being increased from 28 to 48.

(vi) Hand-baggage x-ray machines at international terminal have been increased from 8 to 12 which would further go upto 16 by June, 2008. The check-in counters would increase from 78 to 100 by June, 2008.

Training of pilots

2340. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Civil Aviation Training Colleges in India in Public Sector and Private Sector and the total number of persons passing out every year;

(b) to what extent these institutions could meet the demand of the country;

(c) whether there is a move from MITRE Corporation of America to assist the Civil Aviation Training Colleges in imparting World Class Training;

(d) if so, the outcome of the proposal; and

(e) whether there would be a plan to establish a similar organization in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present there are 43 flying clubs out of which 28 are in Public Sector and 15 in Private Sector. The total intake capacity of these flying clubs is around 950 trainees. Approximately 400 licences have been issued to Indian students coming out of these flying clubs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

FDI in Aviation Sector

2341. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to open various sectors in Civil Aviation Industry to FDI and also to rationalize the FDI norms in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to safeguard the interests of the domestic airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government has taken decision on Policy for Foreign Director Investment (FDI) in Civil Aviation Sector as under:—

Airports: (i) Greenfield Projects: FDI upto 100% is allowed under the automatic route.

(ii) Existing projects? FDI upto 100% is allowed with prior approval of the Government for FDI beyond 74%.

Air Transport Services: (i) Scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline? FDI upto 49% and investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route.

(ii) Non-Scheduled Air Transport Service/Non-Scheduled airlines, Chartered airlines and Cargo airlines: FDI upto 74% and investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route.

(iii) Helicopter services/seaplane services requiring DGCA approval? FDI upto 100% allowed on the automatic route.

Other services under Civil Aviation Sector: (i) Ground Handling Services: FDI upto 74% and investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route. This will be subject to sectoral regulations and security clearance.

(ii) Maintenance and Repair organizations; flying training institutes; and technical training institutions? FDI upto 100% allowed on the automatic route.

(d) The new FDI policy will not affect the domestic scheduled airlines as it does not allow foreign airlines to participate directly or indirectly in the FDI. The same applies for non-scheduled and chartered operations.

Benefits to the employees of AI/IA after merger

2342. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the merging of Indian Airlines and Air India, Government has scrapped any benefits for the employees, including jobs for the kin of those employees who die during the service under compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering scrapping of any other benefits for the National Aviation Company of India Ltd. in the coming future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?